

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /017 R

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APPROVED BY S/PRS - MR. BROWN

S/S -O: M. TANNER

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P 200050Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 123562 TOSEC 130040

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, MAY 19

NO. 3

NOTHING IN THE LATE PAPERS OR AFTERNOON WIRES FROM SECRETARY'S TRIP.

TELEVISION:

(1) ABC (CHANCELLOR) CARRIED BRIEF REPORT ON SECRETARY'S EUROPEAN ITINERARY, HIGHLIGHTING REPORT THAT NATO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WOULD FOCUS ON ROOF ITALY IN EVENT OF COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT COMING TO POWER.

(2) NOTHING FROM NBC.

(3) CBS. NOTHING RE THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP. HOWEVER, CBS CARRIED FOLLOWING ITEM FROM LESLIE STAHL, REPORTING ON THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON:

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STAHL: "UNLIKE YESTERDAY, WHEN A LONG STRING OF WITNESSES ON THE ECONOMY ALL AGREED THAT THE NATION'S FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE FULL EMPLOYMENT, TODAY'S EXPERTS DISAGREED, ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE MILITARY THREAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION."

AVERILL HARRIMAN: "WE'RE NOT IN DANGER. WE'RE NOT IN DANGER TODAY. WE'RE NOT IN DANGER FOR THE NEXT DECADE OF ANYTHING HAPPENING BECAUSE WE'RE SO FAR AHEAD TECHNOLOGICALLY OF THE RUSSIANS."

ADMIRAL ZUMWALT: "THE SOVIET UNION, THROUGH A COMBINATION OF MISLEADING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WHICH THEY HAVE VIOLATED, WILL HAVE ACHIEVED BY 1977 A STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WAR-WINNING CAPABILITY AND WILL IMPROVE UPON THAT CAPABILITY EVERY YEAR IN THE FUTURE IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE."

STAHL: ". . . ONE THREAD THAT DID RUN THROUGH TODAY'S TESTIMONY WAS CRITICISM OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S HANDLING OF DETENTE AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL."

LATE UPI TICKER ITEM (7:30 P.M.), UNBYLINED FROM OSLO, FOLLOWS:

"SECRETARY KISSINGER CAME TO A NATO MEETING WEDNESDAY NIGHT AS A CARETAKER OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY PENDING THE OUTCOME OF AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL TRAVELING FROM WASHINGTON ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE SAID THE SECRETARY'S MAIN TASK NOW IS TO TEND ESTABLISHED POLICY AND INSURE IT KEEPS A STEADY COURSE UNTIL A PRESIDENT IS PICKED. THE MAN WHO IN HIS HEYDAY ELECTRIFIED THE WORLD BY SUCH ACTIONS AS HIS SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ON A REBIRTH OF SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WAS NOW ENGAGED, THE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID, IN DOING NOTHING MORE THAN TRYING NOT TO ROCK THE SHIP OF STATE, OR LET IT BE ROCKED. . .

"NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS SAID WEDNESDAY ITALY WOULD BE ENTITLED TO ALLIANCE PROTECTION AGAINST OUTSIDE AGGRESSION EVEN IF NEXT MONTH'S ELECTIONS RESULTED IN A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN ROME. LUNS ALSO DOWNPLAYED RECENT ALLEGATIONS

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TIONS, INCLUDING CHARGES MADE BY RONALD REAGAN, THAT THE EAST-WEST BALANCE OF POWER HAS TILTED IN FAVOR OF THE SOVIETS. . . LUNS WAS ASKED IF HE COULD VISUALIZE NATO GOING TO THE AID OF AN ALLY WHICH HAD A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. 'SO LONG AS A COUNTRY IS A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE, ALL MEMBERS OF THE (NATO) CHARTER WILL APPLY TO THE COUNTRY CONCERNED, WHATEVER ITS POLITICAL SETUP,' HE SAID. LUNS ALSO DISPUTED CHARGES THAT THE SOVIET-LED WARSAW PACT

HAS BECOME STRONGER THAN NATO. HE SAID THE AMERICAN AND ALLIED NAVIES 'ARE STRONGER THAN THE SOVIET NAVY,' ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET FLEET IS NOW LARGE ENOUGH TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.;

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE123562
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FZBROWN:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760194-1004
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760532/aaaabddl.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by mendozsm>; APPROVED <01 FEB 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, MAY 19 NO. 3
TAGS: SOPN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006